

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SY-10 M-03 A-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SS-15 RSC-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /113 W

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R 051432Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3028

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IR

SUBJ: IRAQ ASSASSINATION PLOT

1. AS SUMMARIZED BELOW BEIRUT PRESS HAS NATURALLY BEEN OF SEVERAL VIEWS RE RECENT EVENTS IN IRAQ: (A) LEFTIST WRITERS (E.G. SAMIR FRANGIE IN L'ORIENT LE JOUR) SPEAK OF REACTIONARY FORCES BEING BEHIND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND PICK UP FAMILIAR LEFTIST REFRAIN OF "REACTIONARY" CONSPIRACY" AGAINST IRAQ STEMMING FROM MEETING IN TEHRAN LAST MARCH OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND SUBSEQUENT CENTO MEETING. RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF GOVTS OF JORDAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABI ALSO CITED TO BOLSTER THESIS OF EXTERNAL CONSPIRACY. COMMUNIST DAILY AL NIDA HAS HAD NO SPECIAL COMMENT BUT FRONT PAGED TELEGRAM FROM IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY DEPLORING ASSASSINATION.

(B) INDEPENDENT AL NAHAR HAS COME UP WITH THESIS THAT IRAQI AMB TO MOSCOW, AMMASH, BEHIND PLOT IN EFFORT REGAIN HIS POSITION ATOP GOL. THIS VERSION IMPLIES THAT SOVS ACTING IN COMPLICITCY WITH AMMASH.

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(C) OTHER INDEPENDENT PAPERS, INCLUDING LARGE-CIRCULATION AL HAWADES, CONSIDER ASSASSINATION, SUBSEQUENT PURGE OF SECURITY

FORCES AND MOBILIZATION BAATH PARTY MILITIA TO ASSUME SECURITY
RULE AS POINTING TO SADAM HUSSEIN TIKRITI AS MASTERMIND BEHIND
ENTIRE AFFAIR IN ORDER CONSOLIDATE ASCENDANCY OF HIS FACTION
OF BAATH OVER MILITARY FACTION BY PRESIDENT
E BAKR.

2. SPECULATION BY INTERESTED OBSERVERS, WITHOUT ANY HARD EVIDENCE,
TENDS TOWARDS LAST VERSION. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR, AMONG OTHERS,
BELIEVES THAT SINCE MAIN TARGETS WERE PRINCIPAL REMAINING
SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT BAKR, PLOT IS ANOTHER STEP IN CONTINUING
DRIVE BY SADAM HUSSEIN TO GAIN FULL CONTROL OVER COUNTRY.
AMBASSADOR WONDERED WHETHER PLOT MIGHT NOT HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT
UPON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ SINCE ARMY ELEMENTS
IN CHARGE OF SYRIA MIGHT SEE THREAT TO THEMSELVES.
HOUGHTON

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